

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A wear-resistant element obtained by a nitriding treatment and a subsequent finish machining, said wear-resistant element comprising:

a sintered and nitrided material having a surface; and

a mixed structure of an Fe-Cr-N compound layer, an Fe-Cr-N diffused layer, and a matrix formed in the surface of the sintered and nitrided material,

wherein the surface of the sintered and nitrided material is entirely covered with grains or protrusions of $0.1 \sim 0.5 \mu\text{m}$.

10-19. (Cancelled)